

RECEIVED

SEP 05 2001

To:

SER@CRWMS

CC:

Subject: the Department of Energy's scheduled hearings on the Yucca Mountain project

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

------ Forwarded by Bonnie Fogdall/YM/RWDOE on 09/05/2001 10:10 AM -----

Naomi Lewis 09/05/2001 07:52 AM

To:

Bonnie Fogdall/YM/RWDOE@CRWMS

cc:

Subject: the Department of Energy's scheduled hearings on the Yucca Mountain project

QA:N/A Inclusionary

------Forwarded by Naomi Lewis/YM/RWDOE on 09/05/2001 07:52 AM -----



LWeinberg < lweinberg@buckeye-express.com > on 08/29/2001 10:58:39 AM

To:

YMP SR@ymp.gov

cc:

Lisa Gue <LISA\_GUE@citizen.org>, Music]Coyl@aol.com(bcc: YMP SR)

Subject: the Department of Energy's scheduled hearings on the Yucca Mountain project

Federal Record Status Not Determined

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I am writing to share my concerns about the Department of Energy hearings scheduled to take place in on September 5th, 12th, and 13th regarding the proposed nuclear waste site at Yucca Mountain. The September 5th hearing is to take place in Las Vegas, the September 12th hearing in Amargosa Valley, and the September 13th hearing in Pahrump. Please include my message as part of the public comments, which you have invited through September 20th.

While I am very pleased to know that the Department of Energy intends to hold some form of public hearing before making its formal recommendation on Yucca Mountain, I am concerned that the hearings are scheduled in such a way that the proverbial deck will be stacked against the opposition. First of all, I believe that the public deserves more than nine or ten business days' notice before such crucial hearings take place. In addition, I agree with the statement made by Judy Treichel, executive director of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, to the effect that the preliminary site suitability assessment made by the DOE on August 21st was premature, as many concerns

about the safety of the proposed plan have not yet been satisfactorily addressed. Therefore it is premature to hold a hearing whose ultimate object is the recommendation of the site.

Many concerns remain about the ability of Yucca Mountain to contain the nuclear waste without allowing it to leak and contaminate the surrounding environment and the groundwater on which the residents of Amargosa Valley depend. Also, the DOE has not come up with a safe transportation scenario. The proposed plan to transport radioactive waste through 43 states by truck or train, is quite frankly, a frightening one to the citizen. The casks that will be used have not been subjected to full physical testing and the computer-module testing to which they have been subjected do not represent real-life scenarios. A nuclear accident could leave a 42-square-mile area contaminated for a year or more, and most communities do not have the equipment and personnel to deal with such a serious incident. Even when no accidents occur, people living along the routes will be exposed to low levels of radiation.

I urge the DOE to postpone the hearings in order to allow time for these concerns to be addressed, to extend the public comment period, and in order to give the public more notice and allow adequate public participation. Whenever you hold the hearings, please give adequate time and fair consideration to the vast network of citizens' groups opposed to the project. Please allow any written or oral testimony that these groups attempt to submit and allow them the time they need to make their case. Finally, I hope that the DOE will ultimately decide against recommending Yucca as a nuclear waste storage site, as sound science gives indication that the project would pose unnecessary threats to public safety.

Sincerely,

Jessica Weinberg, Ohio Northern University sophomore 7168 Tottenham Rd.
Toledo, OH 43617

- att 1.htm